

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~26~~ 34 including the step of providing as said liquid an aqueous solution.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~26~~ 34 including the step of providing as said liquid a non-aqueous solution.

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~26~~ 34 including the step of providing a thickener in said solution for increasing the viscosity of said liquid solution.

30. (Previously amended) The method of claim 29 including the step of providing as said thickener at least one member selected from the group consisting of a water dispersible cellulosic, an oil emulsion, a protein, and a water-soluble or water dispersible synthetic polymer.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~26~~ 34 including the step of providing as said surfactant, a surfactant having a hydrophil / lipophil balance between about 4 and 17.

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~26~~ 34 including the step of providing as said surfactant a plurality of surfactants.

33. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~26~~ 34 including the step of providing in said liquid a source of biocompatible cations in an amount that is safe and not toxic to non-insect species, said cations being selected from the group consisting of potassium, sodium, calcium, magnesium, water-soluble borate, zinc, Ca(OH)₂ and copper.

34. (Currently amended) A method of eradicating insects comprising the steps of,
providing a liquid solution consisting essentially of at least one surfactant
dissolved in said liquid,
said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of non-ionic surfactants,
ethoxylated nonylphenol, amphoteric surfactants, and cationic surfactants,
maintaining the solution substantially devoid of an insecticide, a surfactant or
other substance that is toxic to non-insect species including higher animals and
humans or is harmful to the environment,
placing the liquid solution of the surfactant in a dispensing container,
The method of claim 26 including the steps of providing an insect control
apparatus for detecting the presence of an insect pest,
detecting the presence of an insect thereby, and spraying the solution of the
liquid in expelling the solution from the container as a spray or aerosol from said
dispensing container onto the insect through operation of the control apparatus acting
responsive to the presence of the insect thus detected by said control apparatus and
applying the spray or aerosol onto the surface of an insect pest whereby a film
of the solution thereon reduces the surface tension at the outer layer of the insect's
chitinous exoskeleton such that the solution coats out onto the insect blocking
spiracles through which the insect breathes sufficient to interfere with respiration
thereby killing the insect solely by means other than toxicity of said insecticide or
other substance.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein the sound of the insect is detected.